

REMARKS:

Claims 12-14, and 18 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1-11, 15-17, and 19-32 are pending in the application.

The Office rejected claims 1-12 and 16-22 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,053,982 to McCune ("McCune").

Claims 13-15 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 11, 15-17, 19-25, and 27-32 have been amended and claims 12-14, and 18 have been cancelled without prejudice. Applicant believes that the amendments to claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 11, 15-17, 19-25, and 27-32 are supported in the specification and add no new matter.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant acknowledges Examiner's assertion that claims 23-32 are allowable. Applicant has amended claims 23-32 to clarify and provide consistency to various terms used therein.

Applicant submits that these amendments are minor and therefore do not effect the allowability of claims 23-32.

Applicant also acknowledges that claims 13-15 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate subject matter recited in claims 13 and 14 and to clarify and provide consistency to various terms.

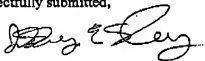
These amendments have necessitated the cancellation of claims 12 through 14. Because claim 1 is allowable, Applicant asserts that claims 2-11, and 15 are also allowable at least due to their direct or indirect dependency from claim 1.

With respect to claims 16-22, Applicant has amended claim 16 to reflect many of the same amendments to claim 1. This amendment has necessitated the cancellation of claim 18. Applicant asserts that claim 16, as amended, is allowable for the same reasons cited with respect to claim 1. Applicant asserts that claims 17 and 19-22 are also allowable at least due to their direct or indirect dependency from claim 16.

In view of the amendments made herein, and being responsive to all the objections and rejections made by the Office, Applicant believes the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 180584 in the amount of \$120, the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(a)(1) for a one month extension for time. It is believed that there are no other fees due at this time. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 180584. If there are any questions concerning the above, please contact the undersigned at (281) 878-5658.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffery E. Daly
Reg. No. 44,640

IntelliServ, Inc.
400 N. Sam Houston Prkwy East
Suite 900
Houston, TX 77060
Ph: 281-878-5658
Fax: 281-878-5720
e-mail: jeffery.daly@grantprideco.com

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria VA 22313-1450 or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

3/28/06
Date

Signature

